GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5902
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2017
Education for Children of Labourers
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a large number of tribal children do not attend school as they assist their families in labour work in rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the number of such children, State/UT-wise;

(c) the scheme/programmes prepared by the Government to ensure that these children are educated/attend school; and

(d) the number of schools opened/ proposed to be open for education of the children of labourers, particularly women workers in the country including Madhya Pradesh during the last three years, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) to (b): Data regarding tribal children not attending schools due to their engagement in family labour is not maintained Centrally.

(c) to (d): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which became operative with effect from 1st April, 2010, mandates that all children in the age group of 6-14 years shall be in schools for completing elementary education. Section 4 of the RTE Act provides for special training for age appropriate admission of out of school children. Those children who have missed out certain academic years either because they were never enrolled in school or dropped out of school, have a right to Special Training in residential and non residential mode, subsequently to be mainstreamed in formal schools in age appropriate class.

In order to ensure access to school of all children within willable distance, SSA, since its inception, has provided 2.04 lakh primary and 1.59 lakh upper primary schools for ensuring universal provisioning of schooling facilities. Preference for opening of school is given to tribal areas, and areas with high concentration of SC, ST and minority population. In addition, 3609 KGBVs (Girls residential school at upper level) have also been sanctioned to the states for improving access to marginalised girls particularly out of school either drop out or never enrolled.
With the enactment of RtE Act, SSA frame work has been revised and provisions for residential schools/ hostels and transportations/ escort facility has been made for children living in sparsely populated areas, children living in areas where schools can not be opened due to unavailability of land and children in need of care and protection. A total of 826 residential facilities with a capacity of 90,855 children have been sanctioned to states under SSA. It includes 267 residential Schools for 50,500 children and 559 Hostels for 40,355 children. Out of this, 818 are operational (99%) with 82,267 children (90% of the capacity) including 266 Residential Schools with 44,717 children and 552 Hostels with 37,550 children.
The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in 18 occupations and 65 processes and regulates the working condition of children in employment where they are not prohibited.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme since 1988 for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. The major objective of the scheme is to withdraw children from work and mainstream them into formal education system. Children rescued/withdrawn from work in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). Presently, the Scheme is being implemented in 270 Districts of 21 States in the country. State/UT-wise details are given at Annexure.